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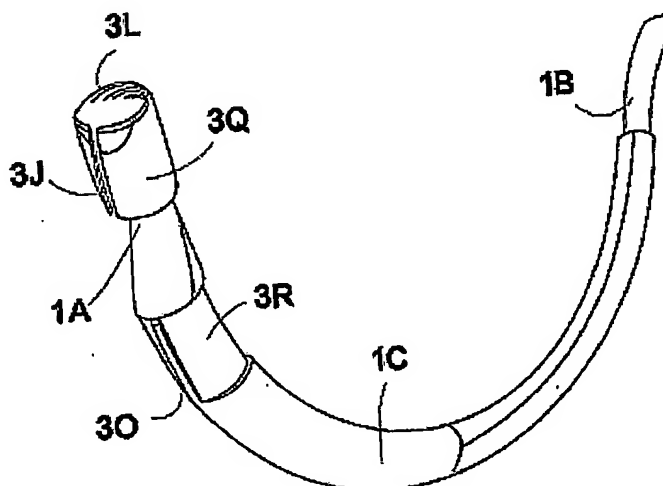
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(54) Title: **SAFETY SUTURE NEEDLE ASSEMBLIES AND METHODS**



(57) Abstract: Suture needles are a significant safety hazard for medical workers, mainly because of accidental needlestick injuries. Disclosed herein are safety suture needle assemblies and related methods. In particular, variations of a safety suture needle (1C) having an activatable sheath (3Q) are disclosed. The implementation of certain embodiments of the disclosed invention can result in a desired improvement in safety, including the prevention of unwanted needle punctures, while achieving efficient suturing.

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